

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 IO-10 /076 W

----- 068170

P R 020815Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7776

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL LOURENOC MARQUES

AMECONSUL LUANDA

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 0928

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TZ, AO, RH, SF

SUBJECT: NYERERE ON PORTUGAL

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 921

1. IN CONNECTION WITH HOUR LONG MEETING I HELD WITH PRESIDENT
NYERERE LATE MONDAY AFTERNOON, MARCH 31, NYERERE VERY ANXIOUS
CONVEY HIS VIEWS REGARDING PORTUGUESE DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS.

2. NYERERE WAS FULL OF PRAISE FOR THE NEW GOP FOREIGN MINISTER
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MELO ANTUNES. NYERERE CAME TO KNOW ANTUNES WHEN ANTUNES WAS PART

OF ORIGINAL GOP NEGOTIATING TEAM WHICH CAME OUT FOR FIRST PHASE OF FRELIMO TALKS IN JUNE 1974. ANTUNES IMPRESSED THE AFRICANS WITH HIS DECISIVENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS.

3. NYERERE STRESSED THAT "THE SOLDIERS ARE NOT COMMUNISTS". WHEN THE PRESIDENT QUESTIONED ANTUNES ON THE WISDOM OF HOLDING ELECTIONS THIS MONTH IN VIEW OF STRENGTH OF COMMUNIST PARTY IN PORTUGAL, ANTUNES IS QUOTED AS HAVING SAID, "THE ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD AND THEY WILL BE HELD TO PROVE THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE NO POWER OR INFLUENCE." I ASKED NYERERE IF HE BELIEVED THIS ASSESSMENT, AND HE SAID WHILE HE WAS NOT ON THE SCENE HE ACCEPTED ANTUNES' VIEW AS BEING "REALISTIC". ADMIRAL CRESPO WHO WAS ALSO IN NYERERE MEETING WITH ANTUNES PREDICTED COMMUNISTS WOULD RECEIVE LESS THAN 7 PERCENT OF TOTAL VOTE. CRESPO SAID PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY THE MOST PRO-SOVIET OF ALL EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES.

4. NYERERE IN DISCUSSING THE ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT SAID "THE SOLDIERS ARE CLEARLY SOCIALISTS BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY THEY ARE NATIONALISTS." HE QUOTED ANTUNES AS DESCRIBING PORTUGAL'S NEW STANCE AS "NON-ALIGNED SOCIALISM".

5. NYERERE THEN SAID THAT ANTUNES HAD IMPRESSED UPON HIM THE VIEW THAT THE NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME HAD A SENSE OF ITS PLACE IN EUROPE AND THE WEST AND VOLUNTEERED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ABRIDGEMENTS OF THE NATO CONNECTION.

6. PRESIDENT NYERERE SAID HE WAS MOST ANXIOUS CONVEY ABOVE TO THE USG, AND I OF COURSE ASSURED HIM THAT IT WOULD BE SO TRANSMITTED.

7. COMMENT: I HAVE LEARNED THAT PRESIDENT NYERERE CALLED IN MY BRITISH AND CANADIAN COLLEAGUES ON TUESDAY AND REPEATED THE SUBSTANCE OF THIS AND REFERENCED MESSAGE. WOULD WELCOME VIEWS OF DEPT AND LISBON ON ANY OR ALL OF THIS.
CARTER

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